



Considerations for the Health Room (August 2021)

Use of the Health Room

- Any aerosol producing procedures should be completed in a separate room other than the health room. These include nebulizer treatments, tracheostomy suctioning and other procedures involving a tracheostomy.
- Ideally, identify a separate space for evaluating those with injuries, non-COVID-like illnesses, and daily routine health services, such as medication administration, from those with COVID-like symptom evaluations.
- Students with COVID-like symptoms should be evaluated in designated room. If it is determined that the student needs to be sent home, the student should then be sent to the isolation room until dismissal can be arranged. If the student is not already wearing a cloth facial covering or mask, they should put one on prior to entering the isolation room.
- Develop a protocol identifying which symptoms would designate a student should be sent to the isolation room.
- Limit the number of students and/or staff allowed in the health room at one time.
- Have chairs set up outside of the health room (where feasible) to allow for social distancing and to limit the number of people in the health room at one time.
 - Consider placing stickers or markings on the floor to indicate where chairs should be placed to ensure social distancing.

Furniture in the Health Room

- Furniture in the health room should be made of materials that can easily be cleaned and disinfected, such as vinyl chairs or cots, with a smooth surface.

Social Distancing in the Health Room

- All students and staff should attempt to maintain a 6-foot distance while in the health room.
- If procedures need to be performed and a 6-foot distance cannot be maintained, the health room staff and student should wear cloth facial coverings or masks, if procedure being performed doesn't prohibit it. (It is recommended that the health room staff wear a surgical mask. See DPI - [PPE Considerations for Schools](#))
- Consider the use of floor markings to indicate to students and staff where to stand/sit to maintain social distancing.
- Consider having a back-up staff person available to assist with student overflow to assist students in maintaining social distancing while waiting to be seen by the health room staff.

Cleaning

- Establish a protocol outlining how often cleaning and disinfecting of the health room will occur.
- Consider the use of a check-off form to track cleaning and disinfecting.
- Identify which items and locations will be cleaned during routine cleaning and disinfecting.
- Remember to clean and disinfect high touch objects including doorknob, cabinet handles, light switch, chairs, cots, phone, walkie talkie computer, sink, toilet and medical equipment.



- Establish a protocol for how to clean and disinfect the health room if a student or staff member with COVID-like symptoms is evaluated in the health room.
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children, and with adequate ventilation when staff use products.

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (June 15, 2021) Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (August 5, 2021) What to do if a Student Becomes Sick or Reports a New COVID-19 Diagnosis at School <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/student-becomes-sick-diagnosis-flowchart.html>

National Association of School Nurses. (2020). Guidance for healthcare - personnel on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in schools during COVID-19. Retrieved July 30, 2020, from <https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASN/3870c72d-fff9-4ed7-833f-215de278d256/UploadedImages/PDFs/Guidance-for-Isolationcare-Personnel-on-PPE-Use-in-Schools.pdf>

Occupational Safety and Isolation Administration. (2020). OSHA Guidance summary document – Ten steps all workplaces can take. Retrieved July 29, 2020, from <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3994.pdf>